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[The Hon. D. B. Warner, the late President of Liberia, and whose last Annual Message we have the pleasure of presenting to the readers of the Repository, has acquitted himself with much ability during his term of office, and to the general acceptance of the people.]

ANNUAL MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT WARNER.

*Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives :*

Contrary to the predictions of the majority of our communities, based on their experience of last year, in reference to the scarcity of breadstuffs brought on at that time by disturbances in the rice-growing districts, our rice crops of this year have been very abundant. For this blessing, and for all others that have marked the year, and of which we have been the happy recipients, our unfeigned thanks are due, and I here record an expression of them to Him, the Father of all our mercies, who dispenses His blessings bounteously to all His creatures.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.—Relations of the most gratifying character subsist between the Republic and foreign countries.

In the month of January last, I had the pleasure formally to receive near this Government His Excellency, the Rev. John Seys, Minister Resident and Consul General of the United States of America.

By the last mail, the Government received from C. Goedelt, Esq., Liberian Consul at Hamburg, the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation, which has just been concluded between the Republic and His Majesty the King of Prussia, acting on behalf of the North German Confederacy. This treaty, which is the fifteenth we have with Foreign Powers, will, in a few days, be laid before the Senate for ratification. By the same conveyance the Government received information from our Consul General in Spain, that a similar treaty is being negotiated between the Republic and that country, and will

likely be concluded in time to reach here next month for formal ratification.

In a day or two I will transmit to you for your consideration and the adoption of such portions of them as may be found applicable to the institutions and needs of the country, six volumes of laws, &c., sent out by Wm. Tracy, Esq., of New York, and by him recommended to the Legislature for the purposes just stated. These volumes comprise copies of the civil, political, and criminal codes reported to the New York State Legislature by the Commissioners appointed by that body, and contain much that might be turned to good account in the revision of our own laws.

**PRINCE BOYER.**—The requirements of the 'Acts' passed by the Legislature of December and January last, in reference to Prince Boyer of Tradetown, have been by that chief met in every particular, and that point of the coast is again open to traders privileged by law to visit it. To the people of the portions of country known as the Five Kroos, interdicted by order of the Legislature, a Commissioner was sent in the month of April last, to make another formal demand of them for the apprehension and delivery to the legal authorities of the murderer of James Douglass. But neither the interdict nor the demand of the Commissioner has had the effect intended. It remains now, therefore, for the Government to take such other steps for the arrest of the murderer and the vindication of the authority of the laws of the Republic as the Legislature may designate.

**REVENUE.**—The revenue for the fiscal year ending 30th September last, was more than one-third in excess of the revenue for 1863, and greater than that for any one year since the organization of the Republic; and it will go on augmenting yearly, if some untoward contingency does not arise to prevent it. There are also owned by the mercantile community of the Republic larger, and a greater number of vessels than were ever owned by it before, at any one time. This undoubtedly shows progress in that branch, at least, of the industry of the country.

**INCREASE OF DUTIES.**—As a measure for the further improvement of the paper currency of the country, I would recommend the raising of the duties on imports and exports a little higher, that the receipts of the treasury shall exceed a few hundred dollars, at least, its disbursements. This would in a short time enable the Treasury to begin to redeem its notes in specie. For the protection especially of foreigners having money transactions with the Republic, it will be necessary to render, by legislative enactment, the notes not receivable

for duties, signed and issued by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Treasurer in 1865, receivable at the Custom House. Being, as they now are, *legal tender* for all debts, dues, &c., in the Republic, (the Custom House dues excepted,) they are being forced upon foreigners having debts in the country, to their detriment and to our discredit. Such a system of money transactions should not obtain in the Republic. A continuance of it will sooner or later bring upon it very serious difficulties.

**IMMIGRATION.**—During the year there have come to the country from the United States of America nine hundred and forty-two immigrants in four ships. They have been apportioned among the several counties. These occasional accessions to the Republic are duly appreciated, but they fall far short of satisfying its urgent and immediate needs for a numerous and productive civilized population. This, doubtless, suggests the necessity there is on our part for a greater devotion of our endeavors to civilize and incorporate the native tribes. These can and will furnish the Republic with an element more enduring physically, and which will, in time, become as efficient, morally and intellectually, as that which we are receiving from abroad. The incorporation of these people with ourselves will be the commingling of no antagonistic elements. Being of the same race, and in some instances of the same tribal origin as ourselves, with all the natural affinities, they will easily assimilate. It will be but engrafting the wild plant upon the improved plant of the same common stock. It will be the righteous carrying out of what was originally, and is yet, one of the great designs of the Almighty in planting us here. May we not believe, then, that in proportion as we fulfill that design will be the rapidity of our growth, the increase of our strength, the abundance of our prosperity, and the degree of our productiveness, as a people? On this, and a kindred subject, I have, on similar occasions, spoken before, and it only remains for me to complete this supplement by inviting your careful attention once more, and for the last time, to the system of the education and training of these native tribes proposed and communicated to the Legislature in my Message of December 6, 1866. The female portion of our population is considerably in excess of the male portion. This disproportion between the two sexes should be as far and as soon as possible rectified, that the evils flowing from such an abnormal state of society may be somewhat modified or measurably prevented. One way to effect this will be to train and elevate to our own level both the recaptured

Africans—the males of whom are in excess of the females—and the children and youth of the aborigines.

**CONTINUED PEACE.**—It should be a matter of profound satisfaction to the country to know that it has enjoyed for four consecutive years a happy immunity from war. There indeed were times when war with some of the native tribes seemed inevitable, but by the timely and persistent use of pacific measures for allaying the irritation on both sides, it was averted. With the exception of the Settra Kroo murder case, and the obstinate refusal by the Half Cavalla natives to fulfill a solemn promise made to the Government in April, 1866, to demolish certain towns built on or near the River Cavalla to the annoyance and detriment of the River Cavalla and Cape Palmas natives, the best understanding subsists between us and the aborigines throughout our territories. It will be of infinite advantage to the country to have as few wars with its aboriginal people as possible, and there should be none with them when the points of difference can be settled by means less severe. The superiority of our implements of warfare and our mode of waging war may allow us to conquer and even subdue them, but this will only alienate them in mind and produce in them feelings of revenge, which they will ever be seeking an opportunity to gratify. Conduct contrary to this we must observe and maintain towards them, if we would conquer their minds and secure their good will, love, and affection.

**ELEVATION OF THE RACE.**—The period of the world's history through which we are now passing is one full of events pregnant with interest to the whole human family. In it we see more numerous, if not more efficient agencies at work for the further improvement of depraved humanity. They are effecting the destruction of that unnatural partition which for ages has stood up between man and man, interrupting and degrading that universal fraternity which should bind together the great human family. They are powerfully aiding the great enterprise in which our Republic is engaged—the civilization of the heathen and the regeneration of the negro race. It is very important, then, that we use our best endeavors to keep pace with their workings, recognizing and prosecuting with energy the part we are to act in the great onward movement.

Never before has there been in foreign countries so great an interest in the Republic as seems at present to prevail; nor has there ever been so intense a desire on the part of those countries to enter into commercial relations with us. And this desire would be properly guided and take the form of some tangible and useful expression, were this country to cause to be published quarterly, at least, statistical accounts of its ex-

ports and imports, its revenue, agricultural improvements and productiveness.

REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION.—A few days more and my administration will close. I feel unwilling to bring this, my last communication to you to a conclusion without a few parting words. During the four years that I have borne the responsibilities with which by the suffrage of my fellow-citizens I was twice invested, I beg so assure you that I have endeavored earnestly, to the best of my ability, to discharge the duties which have devolved upon me. I have always striven to keep before my mind the welfare of our little Republic, the honor of the negro race to which we all belong, and, above all, the interests of civilization and Christianity on this continent.

On assuming the government, I found our monetary affairs in a very depressed condition. The American war, exercising a paralyzing influence upon the trade of the country, and consequently upon the national revenues, tended to perpetuate our pecuniary embarrassments. My first attempt, therefore, was to bring about general retrenchment in the expenditures of Government; thus, if possible, to bring our disbursements down to the level of our income. You know with what success this effort was attended. My next plan was to inaugurate some system to effect a more immediate political fraternization with our aboriginal brethren, and, as fast as they advance in civilization, their social incorporation among us—a policy which I regard as essential to our prosperity and to our respectable and permanent national existence. You know, also, how, though repeatedly urged upon your attention, this measure has been entertained. Other measures of importance, also, I have brought before you; in some our views harmonized, and we have co-operated; in others I have failed to secure your sympathy.

If during my administration nothing dazzling has been done, it has been because my work has been the quiet and unobtrusive, but not the less important—one of financial reconstruction. It has been my lot, and that of the officers associated with me, to labor and suffer to rid the Government of cramping liabilities. In the performance of this work I have never consulted my own ease. I have evaded no toil, and shrunk from no self-denial. I cheerfully leave my labors to the consideration of my candid fellow-citizens, and to the verdict of an unbiased posterity. I do not claim to have been free from errors in administering the Government; but I beg my fellow-citizens to believe that no motive foreign from the highest interests of the country and the elevation of our race have ever influenced any course I have at any time thought proper to pursue.

CONCLUSION.—A glance at my protracted life of forty-five years in Liberia, discovers to me incidents in that life which to-day I look upon with no dissatisfaction. Beginning with the termination of the agency of the self-sacrificed Jehudi Ashmun, and at the commencement of that of the Rev. Lott Cary, one of "nature's noblemen," you ceased not to keep me gratefully sensible of the signal favor with which you regarded me, until you honored me with the highest position in the gift of this people. For this, I feel deeply grateful to you.

It only remains for me to assure you of my earnest desire to co-operate with you in any measures you may adopt for the public good during the few remaining days in which I shall have the honor to be the servant of the country, and an immediate and official co-laborer with you.

D. B. WARNER.

MONROVIA, *December 16, 1867.*

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT PAYNE.

Delivered at Monrovia, January 6, 1868.

*Fellow-Citizens of the Republic of Liberia:*

Succeeding in the Executive office a patriotic son of the country, it has become my duty to appear before you—the Senate and House of Representatives of the people—to take the oath which the Constitution of the State prescribes. To this reasonable and necessary custom I could have no objection, since the voice of my constituents calls me to this service of the public.

No language at my command can sufficiently describe the solemn emotions which, under the circumstances, impress me. The office to which I am called, the high and great duties, the solemn responsibilities to which the fundamental law of the land obligates me by an oath upon the Holy Bible, the word of that Sovereign to whom all must give account, each of these is sufficient to impress most sensibly, while, unitedly, they are calculated to thrill a sensitive mind, conscious of its necessities yet anxious to promote the good of the country, with the deepest feelings. Under the pressure of these feelings I am sustained by a confidence in the God of our fathers, which is justified by the marked providence which He has shown toward Liberia from the commencement of her career. And I have no small amount of comfort in the fact that you, Senators and Representatives, are called to share with me the administration of the Government, and in the confidence that you will heartily co-operate for the prosperity of our country, the elevation of our race, and the support of the honor of our civil



institutions. With these inspiring considerations, it would be highly unbecoming in me to shrink from a position, although the most eminent in the gift of a republican people, after having accepted their nomination and had their suffrages. It would evince not only a want of patriotism, but a want of appreciation of the confidence thus manifested. So far from entertaining such a feeling as this, I frankly confess that I do most highly value their consideration, and trust that my attention to the duties of the office may demonstrate the motive and desire which actuate me to accept it—the welfare of the entire Republic, the happiness and prosperity of the citizens.

It is in vain to attempt to flatter ourselves with the hope that the Republic of Liberia will form an exception among such governments. Its Executive may not escape the latitude indulged by the press and the forum at times. The privilege of any citizen to aspire to official positions, conjoined to a natural desire for elevation, awakens an ambition which may not be altogether without benefit, and should not be altogether condemned. By this freedom to all to canvass, the successful individual is exposed to the effusions of party feelings, and when people are not very intelligent and lofty in sentiment, no restraint is imposed upon the disposition to detraction of even the Executive who represents them. No one will deny their right to inquire into the operations of the Government which exists for them, or question their privilege to discuss its policy and measures; but an enlightened citizen, of proper feeling, would do this respectfully.

It is but recently that the world was astounded by the awful tidings of the fate of one of the best of men, who had committed no fault but that of being President of the Great Republic. That so good, so able a man, so efficient to an adequate discharge of the duties of his administration, as was the late and ever to be lamented President Lincoln, could become the victim of a culmination of the bitter feelings so common to ultra party spirit, shows the length to which they may lead when they are not under the restraining influences of intelligence and good morals. And, as such feelings are not the legitimate emanations of the republican form of government, we should discountenance them with a view to secure the country from the painful consequences which may possibly result from them, or the demolishing of the few great characters which the circumstances of the country develop from time to time.

In the belief of the fact that we have on this earth no other home—no government where our children can as citizens employ the intelligence which begins to manifest itself so praiseworthy and hopefully—let us ask ourselves what effect, what consequences will probably follow a biennial repetition of the

scenes and doings in the last election? Let political parties exist. They are capable of exerting a fine effect upon the country and the government; but they should be restrained from unlawful excesses. The violation of the law to achieve success should be regarded by all good citizens as a dangerous expedient, if not an omen of a future career. Besides, we have as a nation a character to form under the eye of the most enlightened age. We are not independent of the estimation in which the civilized world may hold us. In the full exercise of our prerogatives as an independent government, we should covet their friendship and good opinion, and therefore discourage an abuse of the liberty with which we are blessed.

The position we occupy as a Christian government on this coast imposes a system of duty upon us in relation to that section of our population which is in a heathen condition. Holding the opinion that it is time that the Republic should more directly extend its influence, its immunities, and responsibilities to them; the impressions made upon our aboriginal population should teach them obedience, order, and respect for the authority of the Republic, thus preparing them for a full participation in the rights of citizenship.

It might have a wholesome effect, in the way of preventing excesses and an improper use of our free institutions, to accustom ourselves to think of the fact that the Republic of Liberia occupies a position remote from any Christian and civilized nation, and can be but indirectly effected by their influence. She is separated by thousands of miles from the Government and nation from whom her citizens received their first impressions of civilization, Christianity, and civil government. Were hers a juxtaposition wherein she could witness the progress and prosperity of any one of these nations, she would be continually subject to the inspiration of its example, its culture, its industries, which would greatly tend to strengthen her. But for our preservation from declension, we have to depend upon ourselves, without the encouragement which a proximity would afford; and we should exert ourselves to exhibit to the world the sublime spectacle of an infant State, illuminated with the light of a Christian civilization, thriving in the midst of many heathen empires without danger of being influenced by their heathenism and heathen practices.

Our situation demands the utmost care and patriotic determination to insure the preservation of our institutions in the purity and vigor contemplated by the Constitution of the State. The causes of danger, the precedents which only remotely threaten their perpetuity, should be removed so soon as they are discovered. Indifference toward those who perpetrate acts or inculcate doctrines or precedents subversive of

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them, is an error injurious to ourselves and our children. The history of every government considered stable and prosperous gives us reason to believe that these elements arose, not from laxity in its administration, but, on the contrary, from the firmness and vigor with which it was administered.

This indifference is one of the worst elements that could be allowed to enter into a State. It is a soothing poison to the body politic. Evincing towards the actions of one, it gives strength and encouragement to others; and from one act of defiance to lawful authority, or from one adroit attempt to get possession of the government, the poison spreads till it shows itself in overt attempts to break up and subvert the government.

The brief existence of the Republic of Liberia is not without an experience which should awaken the utmost vigilance of the country. Governments are not indissoluble; their citizens are mortal. We possess a government at present; let us take care that indifference to its operations or to the acts of intriguing ambition does not allow it to pass away. With all admiration for humanity, mercy, and goodness, we should not forget that the table of virtues, as received from the hand of inspiration, includes justice and obedience, and that it is *righteousness* which exalteth a nation.

It is the duty of every citizen who considers Liberia his home to contribute to the perpetuation of her institutions by the exhibition of the elevating sentiments peculiar to a Christian civilization. And the manifestation by the intelligent classes of a decided disapprobation of the irregularities which some persons commit from erroneous ideas of political freedom, would not fail to impose a restraint upon and teach moderation to the less informed.

If we would have the future generations of Liberia inherit our institutions—if the fruit of the toil of the fathers is to be enjoyed by their children—we should maintain inexorably the spirit of liberty, union, and lawful resistance to assumption, usurpation, and tyranny. If we passively acquiesce in the deprivation of the humblest citizen of the rights guaranteed by the law, we do but pave the way for an invasion of the rights of other citizens.

The manhood of the citizens should be promoted, and the proper use of liberty cultivated by a strict prohibition of the influences and intrigues employed by politicians incompatible with the laws of the land. In a word, the laws should be such as would secure the suffrages of the citizens in a manner creditable to our institutions and honorable to themselves. All countries whose citizens, in whole or in part, enjoy the elective franchise, find it difficult to secure a free exercise of the right

from election frauds, nevertheless, they continue their efforts by improving their laws to meet the increasing disposition to distort this great privilege of her citizens. The Republic of Liberia, composed of elements highly susceptible of elevated manhood and discreet citizenship, yet in a state of formation, requires the strong arm of positive law to prevent practices the effect of which is not merely the triumph of a party, but an impediment to the growth of the manhood of the citizens. When the citizens cease to be men, or when they are prevented from the formation of a manly character, they become the facile victims of an ambitious leader. In this way the republican form of government, now so congenial to the wishes and ideas of Liberians, may change to one in which the tyrant's will becomes law.

The consolidation of the union of the members of the State is a subject of vast and unsurpassable importance, and cannot have too much vigilant attention. Any means which may be effectual in perfecting this should not be neglected. We have great cause to be thankful that the hydra of national discord has not appeared among us, and that the integral parts of the Republic subsist relatively, with no disposition to separate. We are one, despite our individual rivalries or our local predilections. If we eliminate, as we should, from these sectional feelings of emulation and preference, individual prejudices and animosities, the spirit of rivalry among the citizens can be made productive of no small degree of prosperity, and it should not, therefore, disturb the unity of the State.

Into this union, it should be our constant aim to incorporate our aboriginal population with a view to their enjoyment of all the immunities of enlightened citizens. There is every reason that an intelligent and Christian people should require for a course of action which would attract and identify these people with us. The legislation of the country should interest them. They should feel that to our institutions they have as free access as any other citizens. Justice should be given them without unlawful exactions. The methods and advantages of enlightened justice should be made manifest to them. And the Government should exercise its authority directly in seeking their elevation and ready entrance into this union. In nothing could the wisdom, patriotism, and prudent forecast of the country be more brilliantly and usefully manifested than in a determined opposition to every thing which tends to weaken the union of the small communities that have sought security from oppression among a heathen population greatly outnumbering them. Determined to discountenance every expression and doctrine seditious in its character and divisive in its tendency, I earnestly request your co-operation and sup-

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port in the noble work of promoting the unity of the counties and the fraternity of the citizens.

This session of the National Legislature has been looked forward to by the people with great anxiety. They are anticipating, at the hands of the in-coming administration, the adoption of some measures by which the general condition may be improved. Various plans are proposed to do this; yet the undivided opinion of the public is, that the state of the country requires the *active* and bold interposition of the Legislature, and the persistent enforcement of their acts by the Executive. As I concur in the opinion, that the condition of the people requires the relief which a judicious legislation alone can give, I trust this administration may have wisdom and ability to meet the general expectation.

Important changes in some of the recent Acts of the Legislature are necessary in order that enterprising and industrious merchants may avail themselves of the great advantages which the commerce of the coast is ready to confer. The laws which cramp their enterprise and confine their activity should be repealed. The impositions which attracted aliens are disposed to practice in easily placing their crafts, surreptitiously, under Liberian colors, should be checked.

We are anxious for immigration. We readily admit any persons of African extraction, however deep the dye, however slight the tinge. Notwithstanding, the administration of the oath of allegiance should be so guarded by law that these advantages of the government may be continued with wonted facility.

Great advantage is taken of the money of the country and the masses suffer in consequence. The demand of the people is for a legislation which will improve the condition of the currency and check, if it does not prevent, its depreciation. It is a delicate subject. There is always a difficulty in adjusting a par value of a paper medium relatively with coin of the precious metals. But when there is no difference in the value—when a given amount in paper currency is equal to the same amount in coin at the Treasury Department—the difficulty vanishes, and justice requires that the paper medium should not be depreciated. This being the case in Liberia, it is speculation of an injurious character to take advantage of the necessities of the people and demand their dollar in currency for half its value, when he who does so must have currency to meet the demands of government and can use it as a dollar. If persons trading in Liberia do not require the legal money of the country, no one can demand that they shall receive it for their commodities. If it becomes, however, a necessity, and can be employed at the Treasury Department for the same

amount of coin, they should not be permitted to depreciate it in the hands of the citizens. The legislation of the country should prevent, as far as possible, the practice of imposition within its limits. And the laborers' dollar, which will be paid to the government for a dollar, should be worth a dollar when he effects a purchase for it.

The subject of the finances of the country is justly entitled to the maturest consideration of the Nation's Representatives, and shall have, as it requires, the most assiduous attention of the Government. The suggestions of the citizens will be cheerfully entertained on any of the questions bearing upon the condition and advancement of the country, and particularly on this, which is admitted by the best regulated and most successful governments to be one of the most difficult that can engage the attention of statesmen.

To keep clear of a careless legislation, at any time a serious error, but especially so on the subject of the finances of the country, to forbid negligence in the managers of the revenue, to enable the Executive to be exact and particular toward the revenue and other officers, it is desirable that the *people* should show continually a deep interest in the subject. The Government is theirs, and the various interests upon which its prosperity depends should have their vigilance and support. Should the time come for the Republic to seek a loan, it would be no small item, in favorably considering her application, if it could be shown that the finances of the Government had not been impaired by careless legislation or a loose administration of the laws. I am anxious for the future, which, I trust, will have the union of the minds of all classes.

Under the influence of a conviction that the improvement of the finances of the government is in its power, I am not disposed to resort to the measure of seeking aid from abroad in any other manner than that energetic stimulation by which capital is most certainly and safely invoked. The increase of commerce will ensure a corresponding increase of revenue; and an increase of commerce is most certainly to be effected by the introduction of capital, or that supply which the country demands.

There is, I confess, a necessity that besets us at every step which I am very anxious should be met by wise legislation. It is the want of a more available money than the Liberian currency. What amount of this and debentures is in the hands of citizens I am unable to say. Enough, I believe, however, to baffle all attempts at legislation on the subject, unless the Representatives of the people, from the consideration of the circumstances of the country, should apply such a remedy as necessity dictates and would justify. I do not favor extreme measures likely to

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oppress or embarrass the people; but I am of the opinion that a country whose commodities and products sell at such satisfactory prices in other countries, should have a better medium. While the wealth of the country is enriching other lands something more substantial should be contributed to ours.

I am impressed with the belief that a more liberal policy on the part of the Government toward the subjects of foreign nations would be advantageous to us. Committed to the support of the Constitution and laws, I would not waive the restriction therein, and made necessary by the peculiar circumstances of the people of Liberia; nevertheless, for the sake of the strengthening effect of the higher types of civilization and the most improved methods of skilled industry, no less than for the capital which would be introduced, I favor the encouragement of the residence in Liberia of subjects of any of the governments which have entered into treaty stipulations with the Republic, by leases of portions of the public domain and the privilege to establish banking institutions, wholly disconnected from the Government, but most amply protected and endowed with all freedom of action compatible with the laws of the State. In this way Government might achieve the utilization of vast tracts of its lands which not even immigration will reclaim for years to come, and many salutary and pecuniary advantages would accrue to both parties. We should come to the conclusion that an illiberal policy on the part of a nation, not dictated by the first law of nature, is contrary to the policy of all enlightened nations and is contrary to the light of the age in which we live.

I am equally strong in the conviction that it would be proper for the Government to extend its aid and interposition to the promotion of the agricultural and commercial interests of the entire Republic. It happens, at times, in the mutations of this ever changing world, that individual or associate efforts are paralyzed, and the direction and aid of the Government become necessary to their support and animation. At such a time there would be no impropriety in the interposition of the Government—provided it took care not to complicate itself.

It is my opinion that the interposition of the Government in favor of these interests would be justified at this time. In giving this aid, I think all that Government could do at present, would be the authorization in each county of an agricultural and commercial company, on the celebrated principle of limited liability, subject in all its operations to the approval of the Government—for the guarantee of its credit in foreign markets, for which guarantee the Government should be secured by good mortgages or otherwise from each member to the extent of his shares. Such companies would have a most important effect

upon the condition of the country. Aside from the commercial advantages which industry, enterprise and economy could not fail to realize, they would engage in business many young men ready to enter on some pursuit, but without employment for the want of capital. They would stimulate and rapidly increase the agricultural and commercial operations of the country. They would facilitate a more frequent association of the Liberians and the citizens of foreign countries. And they would enable the Republic, through its citizens, to give a larger supply to its aboriginal population.

On the subject of the expansion of commerce and agriculture by the Government, the increase of its revenue being the inevitable resultant, I venture the assertion that an improvement in the character of Liberian products would have a very important effect. The loss which the country sustains by the inferior character of many of the articles shipped from or sold on the coast is known to all mercantile men too well to require calculation. I am satisfied that it would be a great benefit to improve their quality and I propose to do this by subjecting them, at ports of entry, to strict inspection by officers sworn to perform this duty faithfully.

The important subject of education shall not fail to have the attention of this administration. And I trust you will see the propriety of so increasing the authority of the Government that an interest so intimately connected with the existence of the Republic may no longer be left to the option of individuals. If the law of the land imposes certain obligations upon them which they may not neglect without incurring a penalty, they can be required by law, without any impropriety, to attend to the education of their children and wards.

There are certain operations essential to a nation's elevation, and none is more vitally important to Liberia than the education of the people. The solicitude of the friends of Liberia for her welfare and success has, up to the present, nearly entirely relieved the country of that attention to this subject which it deserves and of the expense which must have been incurred, but a subject of this importance should not devolve entirely upon foreign philanthropy, were there ever so much efficiency and faithfulness in its employees. It should have the support and supervision of the Government to the extent, at least, of giving good common-education, and thereby preparing its citizens for the duties and responsibilities of life. The presence of the authority of Government is necessary to secure an efficient and faithful attention to this interest. That the philanthropists of the United States especially should participate in the educational interest of Liberia, their earnest interposition so far has proven, as well as a sincere wish to promote an interest

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which they know is essential to the prosperity of a country; but if their efforts were in connection with the Government's, without doubt there would be a measure of success surpassing anything we have witnessed in the country.

Reflection upon the sources of our revenue has brought me to the conclusion that an internal revenue is highly important and should be initiated without further delay. I am not in favor of introducing such a system as I consider necessary upon too broad a basis. It is preferable that the citizen should by degrees be brought to bear a direct taxation from a conviction that an external revenue from duties on imports and exports is dependent upon exigencies which, at times, may become too precarious to meet the demands and emergencies of Government. If the National Legislature should concur to guarantee the credit of commercial and agricultural companies, and thus increase the revenue, still I would entertain the opinion that an internal revenue is necessary. The maintenance of such a system of education as the country requires, the improvement of the towns and the suburbs and public grounds, the opening of roads and streets, require that Government should possess other resources; and a judicious internal revenue would to a great extent supply them. Our aboriginal citizens should be required to bear a part of this obligation. Having access to many of our privileges, they should be accustomed also to the responsibilities of the civilized citizens. They should be awakened to the propriety or duty of contributing to the support of Government. And to acknowledge and commission the most important chiefs, especially if the commission were accompanied with a subsidy, would secure their co-operation in the collection of taxes, the facilitation of commerce, and the preservation of peace in their precincts.

As citizens of a government, we should not close our eyes to the fact that its numerous operations must be supported by our service. If it should be thought that an internal revenue would subject to double taxation—municipal and governmental—the municipal tax should yield to the general government, which alone has the adequate authority to sustain the interest in question and the interests for which city charters were granted.

The acts incorporating certain cities have failed to accomplish the objects contemplated. Good within themselves, they have become a dead letter for the want of an active interest in them by the citizens. The towns and their precincts are less attractive than they were under the old law. It is so apparent to the citizens of the Leeward counties that the majority prefer the old law. And I see no reason why all the towns and cities of the Republic may not be placed under a general

law enforced by Government. By an arrangement of this character a double tax would be averted, and the Government enabled to supervise the townships, and the high interest of education on a plan adopted by the National Legislature, securing the election of qualified commissioners without a dangerous centralization, whose management and oversight of the towns and cities would be rendered efficient by the authority of the general Government.

The importance of the friendly consideration and comity of the civilized world to Liberia impresses me so strongly, that no effort of the Government will be spared to maintain the existing relations and to cultivate their consideration by all means not incompatible with the interests and honor of the Republic.

The citizens of foreign governments coming into Liberia for purposes of legitimate trade, works of charity, or the furtherance of science, shall have the benefit of the influence of the Government and a just administration of the laws. In connection with this, I cannot but express a wish that it may be found convenient to the governments having treaties with Liberia, in consideration of her distance from the rest of the civilized world and of the importance of the maintenance of an elevated Christian civilization, to represent themselves by citizens of their respective nationalities.

In conclusion, I cannot refrain from expressing my heartfelt conviction that the necessities of the country and the preservation of the constitution and laws from wilful violations or unwarrantable assumptions, require the vigilance and co-operation of the three departments of the State. Nor can I repress the expression of a hope that a Legislature so favorably constituted as this is will not fail to avail themselves of the opportunity which now presents itself, to improve the condition of things within the entire limits of the Republic, and to make those corrections which experience has demonstrated to be needed, as also to secure the harmony essential to efficiency and success in the movements of the machinery of government.

#### LIBERIAN STEAMSHIPS.

Very recently a bill was introduced into the lower House of the State Legislature desiring that body to unite with the Senate in requesting Congress to establish a line of subsidized steamships between this country and Liberia. The House passed the measure as desired, and the Senate joined, on the 27th February, by a *viva voce* vote. Mr. Edward S. Morris, of this city, stated in a letter that was read to the upper branch of the Legislature, a number of facts that may be novel to general

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readers, though not to commercial men. He says in his communication that Liberia has an ocean front of about six hundred miles, and has 200,000 people. The English language is well and freely spoken. The country produces rare timber and dyewoods, gum arabic, copal, pepper, ginger, indigo, ivory, gold dust, coffee, rice, palm oil, and other valuable products, besides the best and cheapest soap in the world. The principal river has seven feet of water over its bar at low tide. For thirty miles from the coast the land is flat. Then it begins to roll. The hills are covered with valuable forests, and the valleys are fat. The climate demands acclimation, like that of many of our own gulf States. Iron and copper ore have been found. Cotton, sugar cane, and coffee are easily cultivated, with all of the American garden vegetables, and many peculiar to this region. American colored emigrants constitute the ruling class. There is a good republican government, accompanied with numerous schools and churches. Palm oil, rice, skins, camwood, &c., are bought by the merchants with articles imported chiefly from the United States. The elections are by ballot, and the government is substantially a reproduction of that existing here—the President's term being limited to two years. Liberia was declared independent in 1847.

With this general foundation, a company was proposed some years ago in this country to promote steam communication between the United States and Liberia. The arguments relied upon to defend the undertaking were the general growth of the country, its special relations to the United States, the necessity of maintaining correspondence between domestic ports and this virtual American colony in Africa, that has already done so much and promises to do infinitely more, and the danger lest, in case of inaction here, France and England, ever solicitous to secure future commercial points, might seize and improve the moment.

It is now proposed to the Congress of the United States by the Legislature of Pennsylvania—and the recommendation will be readily endorsed by other States—to subsidize a line of regular steam ocean communication with Liberia. That country lies in longitude six to eight north, and the United States extend from about twenty-four degrees to forty-eight degrees north. A direct route of transit running by the Bermudas and Cape de Verde Islands makes the distance between Philadelphia and Monrovia almost precisely equal to that between Philadelphia and Liverpool. We have several steamship lines now plying to Europe, though far fewer than are needed, but we have not a single ship plying regularly from our coast to any of all the ports lying between the Straits and the Cape of Good Hope. England has several, some of which do a highly

valuable business, and all are remunerative enough to support themselves.

One British company has a capital of \$1,250,000; another of \$2,500,000. About four-fifths of all Liberian trade goes to England on account of superior facilities for communication. With the tri-monthly service now existing between England and Liberia, not one-half of the African freight offered can be taken. The dividends have always been large, and have lately increased.

In view, therefore, of the fact that Liberia is essentially an American plantation, and has preferences for exchange with us; in view of the fact that all our commerce needs to be fostered at this moment to ensure the future; that subsidies have just been granted to Chinese and to South American lines by our Government; that we must act now in the case of Liberia or lose great advantages, and that any subsidy granted here would more than repay itself by creating a market for our manufactures, and giving us a new source for purchases, while an opportunity would be given for thousands to emigrate as they wish, we think that the request made of the General Government by the Legislature of Pennsylvania demands early and favorable action. We are committed to the policy of encouraging foreign steam communication. With all reasonable respect for the profits secured by triremes and caravals, and feluccas and brigs and clippers, it is obvious that their day has gone. Steam rules the seas as well as the dry land, and if we would hold what we have—certainly if we would increase our gains—we must improve and increase the number of our steamship lines and the ports to which they ply. If Congress acts as it may be expected to, and as it certainly will if not alarmed, our commerce with Western Africa is just at its beginning, and will soon pour a rich stream of values to assist kindred enterprises.—*North American*.

#### AFRICAN COLONIZATION.

One of the remarkable movements of the day is the growing desire on the part of the freedmen of the South to emigrate to Liberia. Two thousand names are now on the rolls of the American Colonization Society, and these the names of the very best and most industrious of the colored men of the South, who ask the Society to send them to the land of their fathers. Some have petitioned Congress to send them over the sea, and some are striving to gather together sufficient funds to transport themselves and their families to Africa. Every week swells the number of those who want to go, and who would be accessions of value to the population of Liberia. And we must

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expect this movement to take larger proportions continually, just as the emigration from European lands to our own has swollen in the course of the last thirty years. Whether we think it wise in the black men to leave this country or not, we must expect to see every year increasing numbers depart, and a tide of emigration set eastward, not as large, but just as constant as the great tide which runs westward with such wonderful volume and force.

It would not, perhaps, be wise to venture at present upon any interpretation of the purpose of God in permitting the African to be brought to this country to be here enslaved for a long period of time, and then fully and wonderfully emancipated; but we think that we cannot be wrong in believing that this purpose, so far as the black race is concerned, terminates not upon this country, but on Africa. He has been fitted, we believe, for a work to be done there, and to that land he will go. The Lord hath need of him there, and a field for him to work in there, in which no one but him can labor. And we believe that God will move more and more on the hearts of Christian people, so that they will help these freedmen in their return to their land, and to the field where they may do much for the cause and kingdom of Christ. Of course, we do not mean that all will go, or that it would be desirable for Liberia that all should go. But He who directs this and every movement of the people of this earth, will sift out those best fitted for His service, and for the work of extending civilization in Africa. Those who love the extension of Christ's kingdom, or desire the extension of the blessings of modern civilization in that great continent, must be ready to give aid in carrying back these people to the land of their fathers, and for this help the American Colonization Society is now earnestly appealing. We hope the appeal will not be made in vain.—*Presbyterian*.

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#### PHILANTHROPY WILL AID THEM.

One of the daily papers says, on the subject of negroes emigrating to Africa: "It is a pity that while hundreds of thousands are thronging yearly into this country from so many others, any of those who belong to it should think of emigrating from it to better themselves. We certainly see no necessity for aiding any class of people to leave the country."

But it is one of our principles that a man may renounce his citizenship and go where he likes to go. If they are convinced that Africa is a better place for them than America, by all means let them go. And philanthropy will aid them, and say "God be with you."—*New York Observer*.

## REPORT OF REV. R. R. GURLEY.

In the hope of restoring health to a beloved son, and to gratify a long-cherished desire to again visit Liberia, we sailed from Charleston, November 18, in the Society's ship Golconda. This is a well-built and commodious vessel of 1,016 tons burthen, capable of accommodating conveniently six hundred and sixty emigrants. Those (three hundred and thirteen) who accompanied us were mostly from Columbus, Georgia, and represented the trades and occupations common to the freedmen of the South. There were several clergymen, accompanied by many of their congregations, who were induced to remove to Liberia, not only in the hope of improving their own condition, but by the higher and holier motive of aiding, in some degree, in civilizing and Christianizing that benighted Continent.

Prompted by such motives, these men of God daily assembled on deck this little company and invoked the Divine blessing upon their enterprise. On the Sabbath we usually had two services, sometimes three, which were listened to with respectful attention. The only incidents of the voyage worthy of special mention were the death of two of the emigrants—one a young woman, the wife of Cudjoe Johnson, of Columbus, Georgia, who was in feeble health before embarking; the other a child of fifteen months. Their remains were committed to the deep after impressive services, in which all participated.

After a pleasant voyage of thirty-six days, we anchored off Monrovia, the capital and principal town of the Republic. It is beautifully situated on Cape Mesurado, a high point of land extending into a bay of the same name, which, for capacity and natural advantages, is surpassed by but few harbors in the world. But, owing to the want of means of this infant nation, it has remained unimproved, and hence we were compelled to anchor several miles from shore. Here we were boarded by the Society's Agent, Mr. Dennis, who accompanied us to Cape Mount, forty-five miles distant, where we landed forty-nine emigrants from Tennessee, with their stores for six months. The landing was effected in the ship's boats, manned by Kroomen, fourteen of whom were taken on board for this purpose at Monrovia.



These people are large, stalwart men, who are employed as watermen, and perform all the labor of lading and unlading vessels. This tribe, numbering several thousands, came from the interior about two hundred years since. They inhabit several towns on the coast near together, and by constant association with the colonists and English and American vessels have acquired considerable knowledge of our language, habits, and business shrewdness. They voluntarily separate themselves into classes, and willingly obey their leader who bargains for them, directs their movements, and receives and distributes their pay.

This settlement (Robertsport) occupies a high and commanding position. Here we spent the Sabbath, and heard an excellent sermon from the Rev. Daniel Ware, a Methodist clergyman, born and educated in Liberia. The Presbyterians and Baptists also have churches at this point.

Having completed the landing of the emigrants and stores for this place, we sailed (December 31) for Grand Bassa, stopping over New Year's at Monrovia, which we spent with Mr. Dennis, the obliging and hospitable Agent of the Society. Resuming our voyage the morning following, we reached Grand Bassa the same day, (January 2,) and landed the remainder of the emigrants with their stores. This is one of the principal shipping points on the coast, there being here at this time five vessels, including our own, from foreign ports.

In this vicinity are several prosperous settlements, among them Buchanan, Edina, and Bexley. At the last named place is located a commodious receptacle, in charge of Dr. James S. Smith, an experienced physician, provided by the liberality of the Society. Here the emigrants are kindly cared for during the acclimating process, working at such times as their health will permit on the land apportioned to them shortly after their arrival.

The Marshall settlement, near the mouth of the Junk river, is favorably spoken of as a healthful and fine farming region; and also as the location of mission stations, where the natives are taught the religion of Christ by the settlers. Here the various Christian denominations have increased the number of their members by the ingathering of the natives. This settle-

ment was founded in 1836 by Dr. Ezekiel Skinner, the then Governor of the colony. We have been solicited to to encourage emigration to this point; but, as we did not visit it, we do not feel that we can do more than give the above statement from a trustworthy correspondent.

On our return to Monrovia, we passed a very pleasant week, receiving the kindest and most hospitable attentions. We spent a day with Hon. J. J. Roberts, the first President of the Republic, and now the presiding officer of Liberia College. During the day the interests and prospects of this important institution were freely spoken of, and the need of more ample endowments from its friends in this country suggested. This College, founded mainly through the philanthropic efforts of Rev. Dr. Tracy, of Boston, and sustained by his fostering care, is ably conducted by President Roberts, assisted by Professors Blyden, Freeman, and Johnson. The course of instruction embraces the usual branches taught in our best Colleges, and affords facilities for the acquisition of a liberal education. The first commencement, at which three young men were graduated, was held shortly before our arrival. This event excited much interest, and attracted a large assemblage. We would here appeal to the benevolent to aid this interesting institution to fulfill its high mission, and we would assure our friends that, in our judgment, the civilization and Christianization of Africa cannot be better promoted than through this channel.

We were also invited to dine with our Consul General, Hon. John Seys, and met at his table many of the officers and distinguished citizens of the Republic—President Payne, Ex-President Roberts, Ex-President Warner, and others, who, when Mr. Seys was pleased to allude with commendation to our early efforts on this spot in the cause of civilization, in connection with Mr. Ashmun, responded with much feeling and eloquence. We briefly, in reply, called to mind the vast changes which had occurred on this shore since that man of God, Mr. Ashmun, stood by us, and encouraged the humble fathers of the Republic in their endeavors to found a Christian State.

The President of the Republic, the Rev. Mr. Payne, also honored us with a dinner, which was attended by many mem-

bers of the Cabinet, of Congress, and eminent citizens, who also kindly and feelingly alluded to our early and constant efforts to found and sustain this infant Republic. These complimentary allusions were thankfully acknowledged by us, and the Divine blessing invoked upon the interests of the Republic.

We were here shown treaties with thirteen of the principal Governments of the world recognizing the independence of Liberia, and admitting her to the great brotherhood of nations. We could not forbear contrasting this event with the condition of things when, with Mr. Ashmun, we landed here in 1824. Then the colony consisted of about one hundred persons who had gained a lodgment at this point, cleared a few acres of ground, and erected several small shanties. Its existence was threatened by hordes of warlike natives, and by their own dissatisfaction and dissensions. Then no churches raised their spires heavenward, no commerce visited these shores, save in the nefarious traffic of human beings; the missionary sickened and died, and the hope of Africa, under God, seemed to be in this feeble settlement. It prospered, as we believe, in accordance with the divine plan for the regeneration of Africa. He has preserved and prospered it in His wisdom.

Since then, well nigh half a century has passed away. That little settlement has grown into a nation, recognized by the principal Powers of the earth. Its Government, modelled after our own, with its Congress, President, and Judiciary, extends its beneficent sway over six hundred miles of sea coast, its commerce, in the legitimate productions of the earth, has supplanted the iniquitous slave-trade, its settlements have increased, its school-houses have multiplied, its churches, representing the several denominations of Christians, zealously invite the heathen from his idol to the Cross, from his superstitions to the Word which giveth life.

To our colored friends we would say, Liberia offers you the full stature of manhood. The Government is *wholly* in the control of your own race and kindred, the soil is productive almost beyond comparison, and the climate well adapted to your natures. The *utmost* you can expect here is an equal

participation in the government, but this must prove more theoretical than practical, since the *white* must, owing to greater numbers, ever remain the controlling one in this country.

To all our friends, to the friends of the human race, to the statesman, to the man of science and letters, to the ministers of our holy religion we appeal: Would you render this long-benighted continent subservient to the commerce of the world; would you aid the cause of education, virtue, and religion; would you break the chains of idolatry and superstition, and plant the Cross high above the crescent, then give of your abundance to this infant Republic—this very hope of Africa—and she shall yet march up to a higher civilization in the great brotherhood of nations, in fulfillment of prophecy, “Ethiopia shall stretch out her hands unto God.”

R. R. GURLEY.

WASHINGTON CITY, *April*, 1868.

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LETTER FROM EX-PRESIDENT WARNER.

MONROVIA, *January* 25, 1868.

DEAR SIR: We were all much pleased at the arrival here of another company of emigrants, and we were equally so at the third visit, at the same time, to Liberia of the venerable and Rev. R. R. Gurley, one of Liberia's early, tried, and best friends. I saw him, for the first time, in 1824, a little more than a year after my parents had brought me to Liberia. I saw and talked with him here in 1849, during his second visit to Liberia, and to the great surprise of all the old citizens here, we have seen and talked with him this and last month whilst on his third visit to a country which has shared so largely and freely his most earnest solicitations for its welfare, and his labors and prayers for its elevation, prosperity, and perpetuation.

I have received and read with a great deal of interest the Society's excellent “Memorial.” I am glad now that I accepted your invitation to take a part in the celebration of the “Semi-Centennial Anniversary” of the Society, and became a contributor to a volume which, for many reasons, must ever reflect honor upon the Society. Who that took a part in the

celebration of the anniversary will be living fifty years hence? Probably no one.

The great desire of the blacks to remain in America, and that of the whites to keep them there, can only be temporary, and will give way to a better judgment when the blacks themselves are fully prepared to leave that country, and the whites find it to their interest to let them do so. I do not think we should expect such a general and simultaneous exodus of the Africans now in America to Africa as that witnessed in the case of the Jews when they went from Egypt to Canaan; but a gradual moving away of the people as they become sufficiently educated to justly appreciate and to enter intelligently upon the work of making a new home for themselves in their own country.

I am again on the waterside, engaged in my last battles with the cares, perplexities, and anxieties of a trader's life.

Very truly and respectfully, yours,

D. B. WARNER.

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#### A MOHAMMEDAN PRIEST AT LIBERIA COLLEGE.

On the 29th of January, a distinguished native Mohammedan priest, a resident of Futa, about eighteen days walk from Monrovia, having come into Vonsua, a Mohammedan village a few hour's journey from Monrovia to spend the feast of Ramadhan, was induced to visit Monrovia. He arrived in town with about a dozen of his pupils, all respectably dressed in fine flowing robes of native manufacture, and all of intelligent looks. Among the first places visited by the priest, after paying his respects to President Payne, was Liberia College. He was kindly received and shown over the building. He appeared delighted with all he saw, especially the library, which seemed to him a wonderful collection of books. The President of the College gave him from the shelves of the library an Arabic Bible; and, through an interpreter, earnestly and solemnly requested him to read it. He promised that he would. Several other Arabic works, printed at the American press at Beirut, were presented to him. He was asked whether his people would allow the Liberians to establish Christian schools

among them, and whether they would send their children? He replied, by all means. He seemed remarkably tolerant and anxious for information. He spent three days in town enjoying the hospitality of Professors Johnson and Blyden. This was his first visit to a Liberian settlement, and the kind treatment he received from all the leading citizens, especially the merchants, who made him large presents, has produced a favorable impression upon himself and his followers which will, doubtless, induce other distinguished men from the distant interior to visit Liberian settlements, and open an intercourse that will be fraught with advantages to both parties.

#### THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.\*

There appeared in the Repository for July, 1867, a notice of the scope of this interesting volume, with an extract from the early sheets, showing the small beginnings from which the African Republic has sprung. We have not space at this time to more than announce the issue of the work, and to express the hope that it may have an extensive circulation. Especially should those who are earnestly considering the question of removal to Africa procure and read so instructive and entertaining a view of the history, progress, and prospects of Liberia.

#### GIFT FROM FREEDMEN.

The Treasurer of the American Colonization Society lately received a contribution of EIGHT DOLLARS from the colored congregation of Due West, South Carolina—a handsome gift from so feeble and poor a people. It was contributed upon the principle “that every dollar given to send a Christian man to Africa was a dollar to the mission cause in Africa.” Were the white congregations of the country to “do likewise,” the Society would soon have the means to establish a nation in Africa, which might lead to the regeneration of the whole continent.

\*The REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, its Geography, Climate, Soil, and Productions. With a History of its Early Settlement. Compiled by G. S. Stockwell. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co.



## PRODUCTIVENESS OF LIBERIA.

A correspondent at Monrovia sends us the following: For several successive years a fact has come under my own observation with regard to the productiveness of our soil which may, perhaps, be interesting to you as showing what a little industry will do. Mrs. Charlotte A. Herring, wife of Rev. Amos Herring, devotes her leisure moments to her small garden, which comprises only the sixteenth part of an acre of somewhat stony soil. In 1865, she made from this garden, \$24 82; in 1866, \$28 11; in 1867, she made in seven months, \$31, *all in specie*, which is very high here. Can a single woman in any other country, on the same amount of land, do any more?

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For the African Repository.

## THE AFRICAN RACE—A DREAM.

I stood on the bank of one of Africa's sunny rivers. The birds, the breezes, and the sweet sunlight of early day, had just broken the slumbers of an African village. Some were still enjoying the morning's repast; some were going to work in their gardens; some to the chase; some were launching the light canoe from the bank; others were gathering in groups to talk over the news or business of the day; and on every hand bands of happy children shouted, laughed, and made the welkin ring with merriment and glee. The scene suddenly changes. A dark band of fierce warriors, armed, naked, and hideous, glide, serpent like, from the neighboring woods. They rush with savage yells upon the peaceful village. The aged, the infirm, the tender infant, and the playful child, are all murdered. The young men and maidens, all who seem to have strength and vigor of body, are bound in fetters and driven away towards the sea shore. They approach a noble ship, manned by Europeans, and that seems on this savage shore to be an emblem of Christianity and civilization. Armed Europeans come forth to meet the savage captors and their trembling captives. There is hope. The prisoners are purchased with rum and various trinkets. But what do these Europeans mean? They drive their purchased prisoners on board the ship with oaths and threats, and savage merriment. The vessel is soon floating away on the wide ocean. Some of the prisoners become frantic and leap out upon the devouring billows; some sit in sullen despair; some weep bitter and scalding tears as they think of home, friends, happiness lost forever. The breezes carry away sighs and groans that men have no ears to hear. The billows seem abashed; and, as they roll away, seem to murmur in hollow tones, "how long, O Lord, holy and true; dost Thou not judge and avenge these wrongs?" A voice said, this is a specimen of the slave trade. I awoke, and wondered why God

permitted such atrocities, while the tempest, the billows, and the lightning were in His hands.

I dreamed again. I saw a great navy floating in grandeur on the Atlantic. It approached the shores of Africa. The ocean smiled. The distant shore seemed to welcome the fleet. Songs of praise to God, loud, sweet, and transporting, rose from each ship, and from thousands of voices. And angel forms, dimly seen, hovered over the vessels. A voice seemed to whisper, no such fleet ever sailed on the ocean before. The voice of the Man of Nazareth has at last found hearers. The nations who hunted, murdered, tortured, and enslaved the poor sons of Ham, have at last repented. They have released the prisoners, and are sending the exiles home. But no blood-stained warriors ever bore from the field of victory such spoils as these returning exiles bring. They have borrowed of their oppressors, and made their own property, the English language with all its rich stores of science, literature, and religion. They have seized, as their booty, the arts of civilization. Above all, they have won, in a painful struggle, the English Bible and the Christian religion. They have gathered all these treasures in a conflict of suffering, and without wrong or violence to those they have spoiled. What conquerors ever gained such victories or carried home such spoils?

I stood again on the site of the village, whence fiendish slaughter and cruelty had sent a thrill of horror and shame throughout all Christendom. A magnificent city stood where once the peaceful village lay. I found myself in the centre of a great Ethiopic empire. The primeval forest was gone. Cities, cultivated plains, wide provinces, dotted with churches, schoolhouses, and all that a high, Christian civilization produces, had taken the place of woods and wilds. A great Ethiopic nation seemed to lift their hands to Heaven, and say, "Alleluia! Alleluia! the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!" And then one like the Apostle Paul came and said, "O, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out." The slave trade, secession, war, and Christian philanthropy, have all worked together for the glory of God and the regeneration of Africa.

F. P.

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For the African Repository.

#### COMMENCEMENT OF LIBERIA COLLEGE.

This event, long and anxiously looked for by all the friends of a liberal education in Liberia, came off on the 10th ultimo, and proved an era in the history of this country of momentous influence on its future interests and prosperity. The writer had been most kindly invited to attend the examination of the junior and lesser classes, but was ill at the time, and could not do so. On the occasion of the examination of the graduating class, which took place on the 6th ult., in the large library room of the College, it was his privilege to accept the invitation again extended to him by the President of the College, and to be present.

The occasion was one of deep interest. The examination was thorough and faithful, and would have compared well with one of similar character in any country. The three young gentlemen comprising the graduating class acquitted themselves well, and seemed perfectly at ease when passing through an ordeal so exciting to most of their age under similar circumstances.

On commencement day the commodious Methodist Episcopal Church, having been obtained for the purpose, was filled to its utmost capacity with the intelligent part of the community, including both branches of the National Legislature, they having adjourned for the purpose of attending. The President of Liberia and his Cabinet were also present, and added, in no small degree, to the interest of the occasion.

President Roberts was most happy and lucid in his opening address. The history of Liberia College, the appropriate allusion to its noble founders and most generous benefactors in the United States, the advantages to the people of Liberia of a liberal education of their sons, was most timely, and produced a great effect on the large and deeply-attentive audience.

The addresses of Professors Blyden and Johnson were admirable. The former, by a most ingenious reference to statistics, showed that a large number of the Army of the United States in the late war, from the rank and file up through the various grades of military standing to the generals in command, were men of liberal education. Such an education made men the most efficient and thorough in whatever pursuits in life they might, in the Providence of God, be called to follow. Professor Johnson, in his usual terse, perspicuous, and logical style, gave evidence in his address how well fitted he was to fill the place he occupied in the Faculty of Liberia College. Could the spirit of the veteran pioneer, ELIJAH JOHNSON, have been permitted to review the scenes of that hour, he must have felt proud of such a son.

But the *theses* of the young graduates charmed us all. Mr. A. T. Ferguson in his Salutatory, full of thought, pathos, energy, and life, did honor to the memory of his noble grandsire, the Rev. A. D. Williams. Mr. J. Evans, in his oration on the Classics, lost nothing by comparison, and demonstrated that the seed sown by those devoted men Wilson and Williams, of the Alexander High School, have been well cultivated in Liberia College, and its fruit now made manifest. Mr. James E. Moore, grandson of David Moore, Esq., of cherished memory, and son of one of our merchant princes, G. Moore, Esq., was most excellent in his Valedictory. There were few dry eyes in that vast assembly when the word "farewell" came from his lips with peculiar, thrilling effect.

In conclusion, let me say that Liberia need not send her sons to any foreign country for education. The College established here by American philanthropy, and endowed as it is, has in its President and Faculty all the ability to send out into active life *alumni* who would not disgrace any seat of learning in the world.

We only wish that, instead of *three*, there had been *thirty* to graduate, as the first fruits of the first "Commencement of Liberia College."

MONROVIA, January 1, 1868.

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## SAILING OF THE GOLCONDA.

The GOLCONDA sailed from Baltimore, Maryland, yesterday morning, the 21st April, 1868, for Savannah, Georgia, where she expects to arrive the 30th instant, to take in emigrants for Liberia, and sail again thence the 1st or 2d of May. We expect that about six hundred will be there when she arrives ready to embark.

## ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE.

REV. CHARLES BURROUGHS, D. D.—Rev. Dr. Burroughs, whose death at Portsmouth, N. H., is announced, was one of the leading divines of the Episcopalian denomination in New England. He was a scholar, whose fine tastes were universally recognized. His high character and attainments were shown to many distinguished gentlemen from all parts of the country in a home where he loved to dispense the most liberal and refined hospitality not less than by frequent visits to other cities. He enjoyed through a long life the highest standing as a divine, a gentleman, a connoisseur of art, and a scholar. Dr. Burroughs was an earnest friend of the colored race, being the President, at the time of his decease, of the New Hampshire Colonization Society.

LIBERIA PRESBYTERIAN MISSION.—Rev. Thomas H. Amos writes, Feb. 10, "The heathen are making loud calls to the church for assistance; they want their children taught." As an evidence of this the Rev. T. E. Dillon, of Marshall, writes, "King Tom, king of the Junk country, has built a house for a church and a school, and prays for a teacher." Interested in him, the Presbytery, at its recent sessions, went to his place, and were so much gratified with him that they recommended the Board to establish a school near his town. The new church at Marshall was lately dedicated. Five had united with the church by examination, and four by certificate. One of the young men in the school has been taken under the care of the Presbytery to study for the ministry. The Presbytery also licensed Mr. John M. Deputie to preach the gospel.

THE WEST AFRICAN MAILS.—The mail steamer Mandigo arrived at Liverpool on March 1. The Mandigo brought 1,880 ozs. gold dust, and 1,150 sovereigns in specie. Among the passengers was Governor Blackall, from Sierra Leone, who has been succeeded by Sir A. Kennedy, G. B.

DEATH OF AN AFRICAN TRAVELLER.—Intelligence has been received in England of the death of Mr. Charles J. Andersen, the South African explorer, in the wilds of Ondoga, near Ovamba Land. Mr. Andersen was the author of "Lake Ngami; or, Discoveries in South-west Africa," and also of "The Okavange River; a Narrative of Travel."

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY of England has three districts in West Africa: Sierra Leone, with the adjoining missionary posts, the Yoruba regions, and the Niger, with the African Bishop Crowther, who was educated

in England. The oldest West-African station was established in 1812; the youngest in 1865. The African mission is more than half a century old, numbers twenty stations, twenty-nine schools and seminaries, thirty-six ministers—among these seventeen natives, seventy-five male and female teachers—among whom are seventy-one natives, with two thousand two hundred and four communicants, and one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six scholars in the schools. All this has been accomplished amid many discouragements. The mortality among the missionaries has been very great. From 1816 to 1822 there were sent to Sierra Leone twenty-eight missionaries; of whom, during this time, the one-half died. Of those who were sent there up to 1836, Missionary Townsend is the only one yet living, who, after thirty years of labors, yet labors at Abeokuta. Last year the Society in Sierra Leone celebrated its semi-centennial jubilee. A jubilee fund was established, for which the churches there collected £830 sterling. One church, called Kiassey Road, has at the Sunday morning service five hundred attendants; in the evening three hundred and fifty. Its annual contribution was over £62 for the church fund; for the school fund, £58; for Missionary Society, £72; for the native preachers, £79; for the British and Foreign Bible Society, £64. This is certainly doing well for an African native church.

**NATIVE AFRICAN MEETINGS.**—A Missionary meeting was held at Aleakampah, on the 20th November. The Rev. W. West addressed those present. About £40 was collected. A meeting was held at Winnebah on the 2d December, Mr. Shurley in the chair. The Rev. T. France, resident minister, assisted. About £25 was collected.

**A WONDERFUL REGENERATION.**—The accounts of the remarkable success that has lately attended the labors of the Wesleyan missionaries in South Africa call to mind apostolic revivals. After thirty years of discouragements, opposition and privation, the missionaries "reap in joy" in the turning of thousands to the Lord.

**AFRICAN WOMEN.**—Mr. Du Chaillu, in his work on the Gorilla, thus writes of the African women: "I shall never forget the kindness of those native women to me while I was sick. Poor souls! they are sadly abused by their taskmasters. They are the merest slaves. They have to do all the drudgery. They receive blows and ill usage. And yet, at the sight of suffering their hearts soften, just as women's hearts soften in our own more civilized lands. No sooner did sickness attack me than these kind souls came to nurse and take care of me. They sat by me to fan me; they brought more mats for my bed; they bathed my burning head with cold water; they got me refreshing fruits from the woods. At night, when I woke from a feverish dream, I used to hear their voices, as they sat around in the darkness, pitying me and contriving ways to cure me. When I think of these things, I cannot help thanking God for them; that wherever I have gone, He has made human hearts tender and kind to me; that even under the black skin of the benighted and savage African, He has implanted something of His own compassionate love."

## Receipts of the American Colonization Society,

From the 20th of March, to the 20th of April, 1868.

MAINE.		NEW JERSEY.	
<i>Bath</i> .—Mrs. H. M. Ellinwood.....	\$10 00	<i>New Brunswick</i> .—Miss Sarah Hartshorn.....	50 00
<i>Freeport</i> .—Mrs. Sarah A. Hobart.....	50 00	<i>New Jersey Col. Society</i> .....	2,200 00
<i>South Berwick</i> .—Collection in Con. Church and Parish, by Rev. S. Haywood, to constitute Charles E. Norton a L. Mem....	30 13	<i>Trenton</i> .—B. Gummere, T. J. Stryker, Third Pres. Church, each \$10; J. S. Chambers, P. P. Dunn, Misses Sherman, each \$5; C. R. Van Syckel, Henry Wood, each \$3; George McDonald, \$1.....	52 00
NEW HAMPSHIRE.		<i>Jersey City</i> .—James A. Williams.....	25 00
<i>Bristol</i> .—Mrs. S. Cairns, \$10; W. G. \$1.....	11 00		2,327 00
<i>By</i> Prof. Hiram Orcutt, (\$19 50.)			
<i>West Lebanon</i> .—H. Orcutt, \$5; G. S. Brown, \$3; Dea. N. B. Starns, Dea. C. H. Dana, Col. G. O. Hosley, each \$2; Rev. J. H. Edwards, S. G. Allen, D. A. Richardson, W. A. Chapin, Dea. S. Wood \$1, each \$1; Mrs. Edmiston, 50 cts.....	19 50		
	30 50	PENNSYLVANIA.	
VERMONT.		<i>Hollidaysburg</i> .—Mrs. H. Lloyd.....	100 00
<i>St. Johnsbury</i> .—Mrs. A. F. Kidder.....	3 00	<i>Philadelphia</i> .—Dr. Geo. R. Wood, \$10; B. H. Bartol, \$50.....	60 00
<i>Burlington</i> .—Job Lyman.....	10 00	<i>Pittsburg</i> .—W. McClintock, Esq., Peckville.—E. Weston and Andrew Wise, each \$5.....	10 00
	13 00		180 00
MASSACHUSETTS.		DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.	
<i>Northampton</i> .—Henry Bright.....	10 00	<i>Washington</i> .—Miss Lenthall.....	20 00
<i>Cambridge</i> .—A Friend of Charles Vaughan's.....	100 00	<i>Miscellaneous</i> .....	865 71
<i>Harvard</i> .—Mrs. M. J. Blanchard.....	100 00		885 71
<i>Lowell</i> .—L. Keese, to constitute Chas. C. Chase and Dr. Chas. A. Savory, Life Members.....	50 00	SOUTH CAROLINA.	
<i>Marblehead</i> .—Collection in Con. Church, by Rev. B. R. Allen.....	26 80	<i>By</i> Rev. W. R. Hemphill, (\$9.)	
<i>Brookline</i> .—Thomas Griggs.....	10 00	<i>Due West</i> .—Colored Congregation collection.....	9 00
RHODE ISLAND.		MISSOURI.	
<i>Providence</i> .—Pres. Alexis Caswell.....	5 00	<i>Sulphur Springs</i> .—"Cliff Lodge," OHIO.....	10 00
<i>Little Compton</i> .—Isaac B. Richmond.....	5 00	<i>Steuenville</i> .—W. Kilgore.....	10 00
	10 00	<i>Morning Star</i> .—Collection in R. P. Church, by Rev. J. H. Cooper.....	10 00
CONNECTICUT.		<i>Gillespieville</i> .—Abner Wesson.....	30 00
<i>New Haven</i> .—Miss Nancy Atwater and Mrs. Louisa Chaplin, \$50 each.....	100 00		50 00
<i>Estate of Russell Hotchkiss</i> .....	573 00	ILLINOIS.	
<i>Greenwich</i> .—Estate of Mary E. Mason.....	300 00	<i>Monmouth</i> .—Rev. D. B. Jones.....	2 00
	773 00	MICHIGAN.	
NEW YORK.		<i>Ypsilanti</i> .—Mrs. L. W. Morris.....	5 00
<i>New York City</i> .—A "Well Wisher" By Rev. Dr. Orcutt, (\$1,170.)	5 00	FOR REPOSITORY.	
<i>New York</i> .—Wm. E. Dodge, \$250; Misses Lenox, \$200; A. K. Ely, H. K. Corning, C. V. S. Roosevelt, John Steward, each \$100; Moses Allen, Edward Cray, Mrs. J. Boorman, R. H. McCurdy, each \$50; Wm. Dennistoun, Mrs. Horace Holden, Jas. Fraser, David Thompson, each \$25; Mrs. A. C. Brown, \$20.....	1,170 00	<i>MASSACHUSETTS</i> .— <i>Hingham</i> .—Morris Fearing, for 1868.....	1 00
	1,175 00	<i>CONNECTICUT</i> .— <i>North Haven</i> .—S. A. Orcutt, to Jan. 1869.....	2 00
		<i>Buckingham</i> .—Rev. J. Ordway, for 1868.....	1 00
		<i>Hadlyme</i> .—Rev. J. E. Elliott, to April 1, 1869.....	1 00
		<i>NORTH CAROLINA</i> .— <i>Edenton</i> .—Miss F. S. Rouleau, for 1868.....	1 00
		<i>MICHIGAN</i> .— <i>Ypsilanti</i> .—Mrs. S. W. Morris, to April 1, 1869.....	1 00
		<i>Repository</i> .....	7 00
		<i>Legacies</i> .....	673 00
		<i>Donations</i> .....	4,338 43
		<i>Miscellaneous</i> .....	865 71
		<b>Total</b> .....	\$5,884 14

MAY 26 1868.